

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter for penetrating a stenotic lesion in a lumen in a human body, including:

a linear wire; and

a tubular body ~~placed~~ positioned on a distal end side of the linear wire, the tubular body possessing a hollow portion, a distal end portion of the linear wire longitudinally overlapping a proximal end portion of the hollow portion of the tubular body, the distal end portion of the linear wire being fixed to a proximal end portion of the tubular body exteriorly of the tubular body by a reinforcing tube which surrounds the tubular body and the linear wire, the linear wire and the tubular body being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of the linear wire does not intersect the hollow portion of the tubular body, the tubular body ~~and~~ allowing a guide wire to penetrate its hollow portion;

wherein said linear wire is metal and has a solid cross-section and a covering layer composed of a resin material covering an outside of the linear wire.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the linear wire has a surface layer composed of a hydrophilic material covering an outer surface of the linear wire.

4. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the tubular body includes a plurality of markers each having a visualization property arranged in a longitudinal direction.

5. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the tubular body has an inner layer positioned on an inner circumferential side, an outer layer formed on an outer circumferential side of the inner layer, and a reinforcing body placed between the inner layer and the outer layer.

6. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 1, further including an operation portion placed on a proximal end side of the linear wire.

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 6, in which the operation portion can be adjusted and fixed for its position with respect to the linear wire.

8. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 6, in which the operation portion is adhered to the linear wire.

9. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 1, in which a center of the tubular body is decentered with respect to a center of the linear wire.

10. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the linear wire is connected to the tubular body under a condition that a distal end portion of the linear wire partially overlaps with a proximal end portion of the tubular body.

11. (Currently Amended) A catheter for penetrating a stenotic lesion in a lumen in a human body, the catheter comprising:

a linear wire having a distal end;

a tubular body positioned on a distal end side of the linear wire, the tubular body possessing a distal end and a hollow portion, a distal end portion of the linear wire longitudinally overlapping a proximal end portion of the hollow portion of the tubular body, the distal end portion of the linear wire being fixed to a proximal end portion of the tubular body exteriorly of the tubular body by a reinforcing tube which surrounds the tubular body and the linear wire, the linear wire and the tubular body being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of the linear wire does not intersect the hollow portion of the tubular body, the tubular body allowing a guide wire to penetrate its hollow portion;

a wherein the tubular body having a distal end and a hollow portion adapted to be penetrated by a guide wire, the tubular body being is secured to the linear wire so that the distal end of the tubular body is always located distally beyond the distal end of the linear wire; and

wherein the linear wire is metal and has a solid cross-section and a covering layer composed of a resin material covering an outside of the metal linear wire.

12. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, further comprising a coupling member which fixes the linear wire to the tubular body.

13. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 12, wherein the coupling member fixes together portions of the linear wire and the tubular body that overlap one another.

14. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, in which the linear wire has a surface layer composed of a hydrophilic material on the covering layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the tubular body includes a plurality of markers each having a visualization property arranged in a longitudinal direction.

16. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the tubular body comprises an inner layer positioned on an inner circumferential side, an outer layer formed on an outer circumferential side of the inner layer, and a reinforcing body between the inner layer and the outer layer.

17. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, further comprising an operation portion at a proximal end side of the linear wire.

18. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the operation portion is adjustable relative to the linear wire to be fixed at a desired position with respect to the linear wire.

19. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the operation portion is adhered to the linear wire.

20. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, in which the tubular body and the linear wire are not coaxially disposed relative to each other.

21. (Previously Presented) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the linear wire is secured to the tubular body such that a distal end portion of the linear wire partially overlaps a proximal end portion of the tubular body in an axial direction.